

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /032 W

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R 070626Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1869

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

REF: SEOUL 8710

CBS PRESIDENT OH CHAE KYUNG HAS INFORMED POST THAT VOA RELAY HAS BEEN DROPPED. HE SAID POOR SIGNAL QUALITY WAS REASON. ALTHOUGH THIS SEEMS LEGITIMATE THIS TIME OF YEAR, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT REAL REASON WAS PRESSURE BY GOVT OFFICIALS. CBS'S THREE YEAR LICENCSE EXPIRED DECEMBER 31 AND ONE OF NUMEROUS CONDITIONS FOR ITS RENEWAL WAS TO DROP VOA. CBS HAS BEEN OPERATING WITHOUT LICENSE SINCE JANUARY 1, BUT WITH MCUI TACIT APPROVAL UNTIL RENEWAL APPROVED. COMMENT: MCUI HAS INDICATED IN PAST BOTH TO EMBASSY AND USIS OFFICERS THAT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. THIS STEMS LARGELY FROM PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER OF PRESIDENT OH WHO HAS PLACED CBS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE MEDIA BATTLE FOR REFORM OF THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION. THE ROKG'S ABILITY TO FAIL TO RENEW CBS'S LICENSE IS VERY REAL AND COULD BE EXERCISED ON A NUMBER OF GROUNDS. CBS FOR EXAMPLE CARRIES COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, IS A VIOLATION OF ITS PRESENT LICENSE TERMS AS A RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL

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BROADCASTER. WE, THEREFORE, LOOK FOR CBS TO MODERATE

ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PRESENT IN THE FACE OF THIS
ECONOMIC PRESSURE.
HESS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING, LICENSES
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Draft Date: 07 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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